Please replace the second paragraph from the bottom of page 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--(8) The protein expression vector according to the above (7), wherein the cleavable nucleotide sequence is a nucleotide sequence encoding at least the amino acid sequence of Asp-Asp-Asp-Asp-Lys (amino acid 19-23 of SEQ ID NO:19);--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--For example, a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence which is susceptible to enzyme-specific cleavage corresponds to this sequence. Examples thereof include as follows: a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of Asp-Asp-Asp-Asp-Lys (amino acid 19-23 of SEQ ID NO:19) (said amino acid sequence is recognized by enterokinase, and the recombinant fusion protein is cleaved at the C-terminus thereof); a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of Leu-Val-Pro-Arg-Gly-Ser (SEQ ID NO:20) (said amino acid sequence is recognized by thrombin, and the recombinant fusion protein is cleaved between Arg-Gly thereof); a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:21) (said amino acid sequence is recognized by factor Xa, and the recombinant fusion protein is cleaved at the C-terminus thereof); a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence Glu-Asn-

Leu-Tyr-Phe-Gln (SEQ ID NO:22) (said amino acid sequence is recognized by TEV (Tobacco Etch virus) protease, and the recombinant fusion protein is cleaved at the C-terminus thereof), and the like.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A space sequence may be, for example, a cleavable sequence from which the secretory signal, the Tag sequence and epitope can be cleaved by enzyme, or the like. In particular, in the case where there is a histidine Tag upstream of the target protein, inserting successively a prepro-region in the secretory signal and inserting the amino acid sequence Leu-Val-His-Gly-Lys-Leu (amino acid 24-29 of SEQ ID NO:19) as a spacer sequence to the C-terminus of the prepro-region are convenient for the cleavage by an enzyme, or the like, because the distance between the trypsin signal and the histidine Tag becomes larger.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The following Examples further illustrate the present invention in detail but are not to be construed to limit the scope of the present invention. In the following Examples, IgGk leader may be understood as a synonym of the

secretory signal of IgG. When DDDDK (Asp-Asp-Asp-Asp-Lys) (amino acid 19-23 of SEQ ID NO:19) is present proximate to a trypsin signal, the DDDDK (amino acid 19-23 of SEQ ID NO:19) and the trypsin signal inclusive is called as trypsin signal in some cases (the sequence of 1st to 23rd amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 19), whereas only the trypsin signal without containing said DDDDK (amino acid 19-23 of SEQ ID NO:19) is as called trypsin signal (the sequence of 1st to 18th in SEQ ID NO:19) in other cases. Those skilled in the art can readily understand that a particular sequence corresponds to either of which from the context of the description. The trypsin signal shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 5 refers to the 1st to 18th amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 19. In this connection, IgGk signal and the trypsin signal may be used in an interchangeable manner and, in this ~~resepct~~ respect, both are considered to be equivalent, and the trypsin signal referred to herein may or may not include DDDDK.--

Please replace the first paragraph beginning at page 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The portion of pSecTrypHis/Neurosin spanning from the trypsin signal to the enterokinase recognition site was amplified by using SEQ ID NOS: 10 and 11 such that the peptide Leu-Val-His-Gly (amino acid 1-4 of SEQ ID NO;15) was located at the C-terminus. The product was inserted between Nhe I and

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Hind III sites of pSecTag2A to obtain the plasmid pTrypSig. About 200 bp which contained His tag region in pTrypHis was amplified by using SEQ ID NOS: 11 and 7. A fragment of about 40 bp containing His tag and enterokinase recognition site, which was produced by digesting with Hind III and BamH I, was inserted into pTrypSig to obtain pTrypSigTag (Fig. 5A).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The protein expression vector of the present invention is advantageous and characterized by in that the protein expression vector has the above-described specific construction of the components thereby facilitating the purification and recovery of a target protein in a mature form or an active form. A preferred example of the construction of said protein expression vector includes a secretory signal nucleotide sequence, a Tag nucleotide sequence positioned in the 3' downstream thereof, a cleavable nucleotide sequence comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of Asp-Asp-Asp-Asp-Lys <u>(amino acid 36-40 of SEQ ID NO:19)</u> capable of being recognized by enterokinase, a nucleotide sequence encoding the target protein positioned successively in the downstream, and a nucleotide sequence containing a stop codon positioned in the furthest downstream, where it is possible by using this vector to produce a

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